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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/669,687	09/25/2003	Kenji Samoto	117213	4431
25944 7590 05/01/2009 OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC P.O. BOX 320850 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320-4850				
EXAMINER				
LEE, JINHEE J				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
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**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS  
AND INTERFERENCES

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*Ex parte:* KENJI SAMOTO

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Application No. 10/669,687  
Technology Center 2100

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Mailed: May 1, 2009

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Before KRISTA ZELE *Deputy Chief Appeals Administrator*.  
ZELE, *Deputy Chief Appeals Administrator*.

ORDER RETURNING UNDOCKETED APPEAL TO EXAMINER

This application was electronically received by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences on August 28, 2008. A review of the application revealed that it is not ready for docketing as an appeal. Accordingly, the application is herewith being returned to the Examiner to address the following matter(s) requiring attention prior to docketing.

EXAMINER'S ANSWER, MISSING CERTIFIED TRANSLATION

The Examiner relied on the foreign reference(s) Japanese Utility Model Publication No. 06-021949 in rejecting the claims. Full certified English translation(s) of the above noted foreign reference(s) are not of record in the Image File Wrapper (IFW).

When an Examiner relies on a document “in a language other than English, a translation *must* be obtained so that the record is clear as to the precise facts the examiner is relying upon in support of the rejection” (emphasis added). MPEP §1207.02. Pursuant to a memorandum dated April 29, 2002 by Stephen G. Kunin, Deputy Commissioner for Patent Examination Policy:

Effective immediately, no appeal should be forwarded to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences for decision where: (1) a rejection is supported in whole or part by an abstract without reference to the underlying document, . . . ; or (2) a rejection is supported in whole or part by a prior art document not in the English language, unless accompanied by a translation of the prior art document into English.

The memorandum also states “[i]f the document is in a language other than English and the examiner seeks to rely on that document, a translation *must* be obtained so that the record is clear as to the precise facts the examiner is relying upon in support of the rejection” (emphasis added).

EXAMINER'S CONSIDERATION OF REPLY BRIEF

A Reply Brief was filed in this application on November 7, 2007.

There is no evidence on the record indicating that the Examiner has considered the Reply Brief in accordance with 37 CFR CFR § 41.43(a)(1) and MPEP § 1208, part II.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, it is

ORDERED that the application is returned to the Examiner to:

- 1) obtain full certified English language translation(s) of the above noted foreign reference(s);
- 2) complete the IFW by having the translation(s) obtained scanned into the IFW file;
- 3) provide copies of the translations obtained to Appellant(s);
- 4) consider the Reply Brief filed November 7, 2007, as indicated above; and
- 5) for such further action as may be appropriate.

Application No. 10/669,687

KZ/MTV/lb

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